TITLE OF RESEARCH WORK

POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE PARTICIPATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES :

A CASE STUDY OF BEGUSARAI DISTRICT - 2005 to 2020

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POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE PARTICIPATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES :
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STATEMENT OF PROBLEM :-

Over the last two decades, political participation as well as voting behaviour of Scheduled Caste's in Bihar has undergone a tremendous change. whether political parties motivated Scheduled Castes far political participation, which leads to decision- making and generates self-confidence among them.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS :-

- Have the Scheduled Castes become more active in politics due to political participation?
- Did political participation of Scheduled Castes bring them closer to other castes, which helped them participate in Governance?
- Is it true that political participation among Scheduled Castes has increased due to caste politics?
- Do political parties give proper place to Scheduled Castes in their organization?

INTRODUCTION :-

The Begusarai parliamentary Constituency, which represents Begusarai district in nothern Bihar has a distinct and prominent presence on the political map of Bihar. Unlike other parts of the state and the Country, Begusarai district has by and large witnessed healthy, generally clean politics based on ideology. Since independence, the politics in Begusarai has revolved around two prominent political ideologies Communism and Nationalism. Interestingly both these ideologies have their base cutting across caste, religion and assembly segments.

Communism was the dominant ideology of politicians in the area in initial decades after independence, whereas the nationalism flag was in the hands of the congress party till 1999, the time by when the Congress party had lost relevance in

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the politics of the state. Overtime, the BJP has taken over the void created by the absence of the Congress party.

A section of Muslims who were traditional supporter of the Congress party could not associate with BJP or the CPI, and this created an opportunity for regional parties - the Rashtriya Janata Dal(RJD), Junta Dal United JD(U) and the Lok Janshakti party (LJP) to make inroads into the politics of Begusarai and they were successful in creating some support base. Since then, the politics of Begusarai has got prominent colours of casteism and religionism ,but still Communism and Nationalism have Continued to prevail and play a major role in all electoral battles.

If we talk about the demography of this parliamentary constituency, the highest population is of upper caste Bhumihar, Muslims are a distant second, followed by Yadavas, kurmis and then kushwahas, Mallahas, Brahmins, Dhanuks, and some other EBC and Scheduled Castes. The Bhumihar are active in politics, and most of the Prominent leaders across parties are from this caste .

While trying to understand the current political prospects in Begusarai. We must analyze earlier results, and while doing so, we must take in to account the delimitation of parliamentary Constituencies in 2008, the period following that the fact that the adjoining Ballia parliamentary constituency have ceased to exist and that five of its assembly constituencies which were in Begusarai district - Barauni (Teghra), Bachhwara ,Cheria Bariarpur, Bakhri and Sahebpur Kamal (it is a new assembly constituency carved out of the erstwhile Ballia assembly constituency) – have become part of the current Begusarai parliamentary constituency. So, since the 2009 parliamentary election the Begusarai constituency represents the complete and only the Begusarai district.

The erstwhile Ballia parliamentary Constituency was used to be a strong base of the communists. Of the nine parliamentary elections held in Balia, the CPI had own four times and the rest five times it was won by five diffrent political parties-importantly, most of these five times the CPI had come second- In the erstwhile Begusarai parliamentary Constituency, the Congress party had a strong hold till 1998. By 1998, the congress party had own this constituency eight out of 14 times, and whenever it had lost, it was due to a strong anti-Congress wave in the country. It had cadre-based strong support in Begusarai and Matihani, and had

complete hold in the Barbigha and Sheikhpura assembly constituencies which had always voted decisively in favour of the congress party.

So, as per the results, the CPI has been the traditionally strong with cader based support across Begusarai district and the current Begusarai Parliamentary constituency. That is why it was called the Leningrad of Bihar. Post delemination only two parliamentary elections have been held in Begusarai Constituency .

In 2009, in a low voter turnout of just 48 Percent, JD(U) leader Monazir Hasan had won as the NDA candidate by a margin of 40,837 vates. The other main Candidates were ex MP Shatrughan Prashad Singh of CPI, Anil Chaudhary of LJP, Amita Bhushan from Congress and Narendra Kumar Singh, the then independent MLA from Matihani as an independent candidate. Except Monazir Hasan, all the major candidates were Bhumihar, and each one of them had got Bhumihar votes. Monazir Hasan had also got considerable Bhumihar votes. The Muslim voters along with Kurmi, Kushwaha and some other EBC castes had consolidated in his favour yet, the margin of victory was not high.

In 2014 there was strong sentiment in the country in support of the BJP and against UPA government and Bihar and Begusarai were exception. Compared to 2009, there was much higher voter turnout, there was Hindu vote consolidation especially among Bhumihars and a large section of EBC and SC castes in favour of the BJP. On the other hand there was Muslim - Yadav vote consolidation in favour of the RJD, but it was not good enough to defeat the BJP. The CPI slipped to third position, indicating many of its traditional voters had voted for the BJP and the RJD. The BJP had got 4, 28,227 votes RJD 3.69,892 votes and the CPI 1,92, 639 votes The margin of victory was 56, 335 which was close to the 2009 margin.

If we talk about the 2019 parliamentary election in Begusarai, it seems the strategy of the BJP and RJD was based on the 2009 and 2014 elections. The BJP is continuing with it's 2014 strategy of contesting in the name of Hindu nationalism and ensure higher vote consolidation of the Bhumihar, Kurmis. most of the EBCs and Scheduled Castes in the name of nationalism and leadership of of Narendra Modi, Nitish Kumar and Ram Bilas Paswan. The RJD has, meanwhile, decided to Continew with it's earlier strategy to field a Muslim candidate, ensure Muslim Yadav vote consolidation, get some more caste- based support through its new

alliance partner in the UPA, and expect considerable Bhumihar vote divided between BJP and CPI .The CPI has fielded its youth icon Kanhaiya Kumar. He worked hard to re-energize the CPI cadre, which is present in all sections of the society across the parliamentary constituency. However, the situation on the ground has altered compared to 2009 and 2014. Finally. BJP own the election.

The Bihar government released its statistical data 2023 on the caste based head count done in the state, which may have significant implications for Bihar's electoral politics in days to come.

The data shows that the politically sensitive 113 caste group known as the extremely backward classes constitute the largest portion at 36% along with the other backward classes at 27%. which around to 63% ,general constitute 15.5% SC 19.7%. ST-1.7%.

The caste - wise break up shows that the "upper caste" group among Hindus account for only 10.6%, Brahamas-3.7%., Rajput-3.4% Bhumihar - 2.9%, Kayasthas-0.6%.

Those who are looking at elections in Begusarai only from the caste and religion angle may fail to understand the ground reality. Ideology play majos role and if it happens, whoever wins or losses, it will be victory for democracy.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE :-

1. Abhay Pd. Singh and Krishna Murari – "Bharat mai Rajnitik Prakriya" - Book discusses the functioning of important Political organizations and the political process of Independent India.
2. Rajni kothari- Caste in Indian politics" – A study of the relationship between the Indian caste system and the parliamentary form of government.

3. Amarjit S. Narang - "Indian Government and Politics" Book focuses on the development of the welfare state system in India and the overall political constraints of the developing country.

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4. James Manor - "Politics and State - Society Relation in India" - It deals with how Indian polities. affected by caste, political economy particularly poverty and its alleviation and models of political leadership.

5. Hardgrave, Robert L - India : Government and politics it a developing nation.

6. Ram Ahuja - "Bhartiya Samaj" - This book focuses on the life and condition of the people of different Castes and classes.

7. N-K. Singh and Nicholas Steen - " The new Bihar". high light Bihars potential for rapid economic development, reformes in governance for lower class people.

OBJECTIVE :-

1. To explore the objections and challanges before SC in their political participation .

2. Role of political parties in political participation of SC.

3. To measure the impect of political participation on the life of SC.

4. So explore at what extent political parties helped SC to know importance of political rights in their life.

5. To find out how political parties and political participation are related to social changes.

HYPOTHESIS :-

1. There is a positive relation between political parties and political participation.

2. The political participation of Dalits has increased due to the activities of political parties in parliamentary democracy.

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3. The Regional Parties has strengthened the cast politics.

4. The caste politics has strebgthened the politics of gathwandhan.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :-

A mixed methodology of both Qualitative and Quantative method will be used while conducting the research. Data would be collected from both primary and secondary sources. Interview and Questionnaire method will be used for collection of data.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE RESEARCH WORK :-

The study aims to know the political status of SC. How political participation have impacted the lives of SC and has sterthened the democratic process .How formation of political parties by the SC and their involvement in political organizations led to political awakening.

TENTATIVE CHAPTER :-

1. Introduction.
2. Political Parties in Begusarai Distict.
3. Scheduled Caste Participation in Political Process.
4. Scheduled Caste Political Parties and Ideology.
5. Scheduled Castes at Crossroads.
6. Conclusion.

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PRIMARY SOURCES

- Report of Election Commission of India, State Election commission Bihar and District Election Office, Begusarai.

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- Bihar Caste Survey – 2023.

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